

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8819

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: RECENT SIM PROBLEMS IN ETHIOPIA

1. DIRECTOR OF SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS (SIM),
CUMBERS, CALLED ON EMBOFFS APRIL 2ND TO INFORM OF RECENT
DIFFICULTIES WHICH SIM HAS ENCOUNTERED HERE.

2. SIM-RUN GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY IN ADDIS HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING
TO DISCHARGE ETHIOPIAN BOOKKEEPER FOR OVER TWO YEARS BECAUSE
OF IRREGULARITIES IN HIS FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING. SINCE
ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEE HAS ORGANIZED LABOR UNION AT ACADEMY
AND WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNION HE IS THEREFORE
IMMUNE FROM FIRING. ADDIS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, HOWEVER,
HAS INVESTIGATED THE SITUATION AND REPORTEDLY FAVORS SIM
POSITION. SUBJECT EMPLOYEE IN RETALIATION HAS BEEN INSTI-
GATING ANTI-MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES AMONG SCHOOL TEACHERS AND
ADMINISTRATORS. DURING PAST WEEK, ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR,
SUBJECT EMPLOYEE AND 15 OTHER ETHIOPIAN STAFF MEMBERS ARMED
WITH KNIVES AND CLUBS ATTEMPTED TO ASSAULT FOREIGN STAFF
MEMBERS, INCLUDING AMERICANS, IN SCHOOL COMPOUND. SCHOOL
STUDENT BODY, MOSTLY GIRLS, INTERPOSED THEMSELVES AND
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WERE SEVERELY BEATEN. ETHIOPIAN SCHOOL DIRECTOR RE-

QUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM NEARBY MILITARY UNIT WHICH IN TURN SEVERLY BEAT WOULD-BE MALEFACTORS. TWO OF THE GIRLS ARE NOW IN THE HOSPITAL WITH INJURIES SUSTAINED IN THE ALTERCATION, ONE OF THEM HAVING SUFFERED FIVE BROKEN RIBS. SUBSEQUENTLY, RADIO ETHIOPIA BROADCAST A STRONG ANTI-MISSIONARY PROGRAM IN AMHARIC ON MARCH 31ST WHICH SINGLED OUT SIM, ACCUSING MISSIONARIES OF IMPERIALISM, EXPLOITATION, ETC. RADIO PROGRAM MENTIONED SIM EFFORTS TO FIRE "LOYAL EMPLOYEE" WITHOUT DUE PROCESS AND ACCUSED MISSIONARIES OF BEATING HIM. THIS WAS TYPIFIED AS NORMAL MISSIONARY BEHAVIOR. PARENTS OF ACADEMY STUDENTS (WHO ARE MOSTLY ETHIOPIAN) HAVE FORMED COMMITTEE LED BY RETIRED OFFICERS (A COLONEL AND GENERAL) WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST TROUBLEMAKER, AND SIM IS ATTEMPTING TO HAVE BALANCING RADIO BROADCAST MADE.

3. AMERICAN MISSIONARY WOMEN IN ALAMATA, NORTH OF WOLDIYA IN WOLLO, WAS SHOT BY UNKNOWN ETHIOPIAN ASSAILANT ON MARCH 31ST IN HER COMPOUND. WOMAN RECEIVED ONE SUPERFICIAL BULLET WOUND AND REMAINS IN THE HOSPITAL. REMAINING THREE MISSIONARIES IN ALAMATA (ALL AMERICANS) HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN. CAUSE OF ATTACK IS UNKNOWN BUT CUMBERS BELIEVES IT IS RELATED TO ANTI-MISSIONARY RADIO PROGRAMS, SPECIFICALLY THE MARCH 31ST 8:30 PM BROADCAST (WOMAN WAS SHOT AT 9:10 PM)

4. CUMBERS ALSO INFORMED US OF CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN WOLLAMO SODDO, NORTHERN SIDAMO PROVINCE. SIM RUNS HOSPITAL AND SCHOOL FOR BLIND THERE WHICH IS STAFFED MAINLY BY AMERICANS AND CANADIANS. A DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEE HAS ORGANIZED STAFF MEMBERS AND PATIENTS THERE AGAINST CANADIAN COUPLE WHO MANAGE MISSION STATION. CANADIAN COUPLE HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO VERBAL HARRASSMENT AND PHYSICAL ABUSE AND, WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE MISSION STATION ON APRIL 2ND FOR ADDIS, WERE PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY CROWD WHICH GATHERED AROUND THEIR VEHICLE AND "ROCKED IT". SIM HAS THREATENED TO PULL ALL MISSIONARIES OUT OF AREA, BUT LOCAL OFFICIALS, IN ABSENCE OF AWRAJA ADMINISTRATOR, HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW MISSIONARIES TO LEAVE. CUMBERS STATES THAT HE

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BELIEVES MISSIONARIES ARE IN NO PHYSICAL DANGER BUT ARE BEING HELD IN SODDO UNDER VIRTUAL HOUSE ARREST. SIM ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE PROBLEM WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

5. CUMBERS REPORTS THAT BODE TRIBE NEAR BONGA IN KAFFA PROVINCE HAVE RESUMED "RAIDING" ACTIVITIES. VILLAGE NEAR SIM MISSION STATION THERE WAS ATTACKED AND BURNED BY TRIBALS,

RESULTING IN 150 VILLAGES SEEKING SAFE-HAVEN IN MISSION STATION. AWAJA ADMINISTRATOR, KNOWN TO BE HOSTILE TO MISSION ACTIVITIES, ADDRESSED REFUGEES AND DEMANDED THAT THEY LEAVE THE MISSION STATION. ACCORDING TO CUMBERS, A "PLANT" AMONG THE REFUGEES INQUIRED OF THE ADMINISTRATOR DURING HIS ADDRESS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH "EXPLOITER MISSIONARIES" TO WHICH ADMINISTRATOR REPLIED, "THEY SHOULD BE DESTROYED." ACCORDING TO CUMBERS THE MISSION "FAITHFUL" WERE ABLE TO PREVENT BUILDINGS FROM BEING BURNED OR HARM BEFALLING MISSIONARIES, BUT THE SITUATION IS STILL TENSE. AT LEAST ONE AMERICAN IS STATIONED AT THE BONGA MISSION STATION.

COMMENT: THESE ANTI-MISSION ACTIVITIES APPEAR TO BE RELATED TO RECENT INFLAMMATORY RADIO BROADCASTS CHARGING MISSIONARIES WITH BEING EXPLOITERS AND IMPERIALISTS, AND IN THE PAY OF THE CIA. WE INTEND TO AMAKE FURTHER REPRESENTATION TO EPMG USING ALAMATA SHOOTING AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ACTIONS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST AMCITS AS RESULT OF INFLAMMATORY ETHIOPIAN MEDIA RHETORIC. END COMMENT.
HUMMEL

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